

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) issued the following statement today in response to reports that the U.S. has canceled deportation actions against Henry Velandia, a native Venezuelan who is legally married to a Princeton man, Josh Vandiver:

"For nearly a year, I have urged federal officials in phone calls and letters to drop their wrong-headed efforts to deport Henry Velandia, the lawful spouse of an American citizen. I am delighted that, at long last, Henry and his husband Josh can lead their lives together free from the fear of deportation.

"Even so, their struggle underscores the ongoing injustice, discrimination, and legal uncertainty that plague same-sex couples today. Although I hope that federal courts will soon rule the so-called Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, I will continue to push for its repeal so that no other married couple has to endure the fear and confusion that Henry and Josh lived with for so long.

"Over the past year, Henry and Josh have courageously served as symbols in the fight against marriage discrimination. I know that they will continue to battle discrimination in all its forms, but I hope that, now that their personal fight has reached its end, they may enjoy the happiness and peace that they deserve. They have my continued best wishes and warmest regards."

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